

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application and are rejected. Claims 1-7 are herein amended. New claim 8 is added herein.

Applicant's Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

It is the position of the Office Action that claims 1-7 are generally narrative, and mix positively recited structure with functional language, such that it is not clear what exactly should be given patentable weight. Specifically, the Office Action states that the phrase “in section in a longitudinal direction thereof formed at least at a portion in the longitudinal direction” is unclear. Additionally, the Office Action states that there is no reference frame established for the “longitudinal direction.” Finally, the Office Action states that it is unclear what the “circulation passage” is, since it is interpreted as being defined twice.

In response, Applicant herein makes substantial claim amendments in order to overcome the rejection. First, Applicant notes that claims 1-4 recite the rolling member connection belt, while claims 5-7 recite the motion guide device. Because the scope of claims 1-4 is limited to the connection belt itself, recitation of the components of the circulation passages in claim 1 is not necessary. Therefore, in claims 1-4, Applicant herein amends the claims to only recite the structure of the connection belt.

Next, with respect to the lack of a reference frame for a “longitudinal direction,” Applicant respectfully submit that a belt inherently has a longitudinal direction and a width direction. Thus, it is not necessary to provide a specific reference frame for the recitation of a “longitudinal direction.”

Additionally, Applicant herein amends claims 2 and 6 in order to recite that “a diameter of said plurality of rolling member holding holes is greater than a pitch between adjacent peak and valley portions.” This is supported at page 18, lines 3-5, as well as Figures 3C and 4. Applicant respectfully submits that this language more accurately and clearly recites the intended subject matter.

Finally, Applicant herein adds new claim 8, which recites the structure of the claw portions. This new claim is similar in subject matter to claim 3.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amended and new claims are sufficient to overcome the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Additional Comments

In review of the specification, Applicant has noted two minor errors. First, on page 9, line 23, the specification contains the Japanese katakana character “コ.” However, “コ-shaped” should be replaced by “U-shaped.” Applicant herein amends the specification accordingly.

Additionally, Applicant notes that Figure 1 contains a reference numeral “21.” However, the specification does not discuss reference numeral “21.” This reference should be “A” for ball

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return passage. Accordingly, Applicant herewith submits a replacement sheet correcting this error. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that the subject matter of claims 1-7 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action. As noted above, Applicant herein amends the claims in order to overcome this rejection. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the application pass on to allowance.

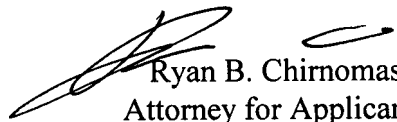
For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: Replacement Drawings Sheet for Figure 1